

# Chase LaSpisa

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Political Science, **University of Iowa** May 2026 (expected)  
Dissertation: “*Maritime Zones of Contention: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Resources on Maritime International Conflict and Cooperation*”  
Committee: Sara Mitchell (chair), Brian Lai, Frederick Boehmke, Krista Wiegand
- M.A. Political Science, **University of Iowa** December 2021
- B.A. Political Science, **Oklahoma State University** May 2020  
Minors: Economics & Russian Language and Literature  
Summa Cum Laude & Honors College Degree

## HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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- Fulbright Grantee**, 24-25 Fulbright U.S Study/Research Grant Award to Norway 2024-2025  
**University of Iowa Post-Comprehensive Fellowship**, Declined Spring 2024  
**Lynne Rienner Award** for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student, International Studies Association Fall 2023  
**Delegate**, Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop, University of Denver Fall 2023  
**Best Seminar Paper**, Departmental Award, University of Iowa Fall 2022  
**Graduate College Recruitment Fellowship**, University of Iowa Spring 2020  
**NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates**, University of North Texas Summer 2019

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- LaSpisa, Chase**. 2025. “Dangerous Development: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Discovery and Production on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict”. *International Interactions* 25 (1): 29-57.
- LaSpisa, Chase** and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2025. “Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict”. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21 (2): 1-15.

## WORKING PAPERS

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- LaSpisa, Chase**. “The Oil-Repression Nexus: Oil Reliance and Government Incentives to Repress”
- LaSpisa, Chase**. The Impact of Border-Proximate Offshore Oil Resources on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict”
- LaSpisa, Chase**. “Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity”
- Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. “Protesting the Patriarchy: Public Gender Attitudes and Women’s Mobilization”
- Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. “When it Rains, it Pours: The Effect of Natural Disasters on Low-Scale Social Conflict”

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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### International Relations

Interstate Conflict, Intrastate Conflict, Political Violence, Natural Resource Politics, Maritime Conflict and Cooperation, Environmental Politics

### Comparative Politics

Contentious Politics, Social Movements, Resource Curse, Political Economy of Human Rights, Subnational Effects of Environment and Resource Management

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Research Assistant, *Cooperation in Civil Wars*, Elizabeth Menninga** Fall 2023-Summer 2024

Worked for a collaborative multi-university research team on cooperation between rebels and governments in civil wars. I converted qualitative data from news reports into empirical data by identifying instances of cooperation in the news reports and coding them into the project's main dataset. I conducted quality control checks of other research assistant's converted data to ensure the original data followed strict research guidelines. I also participated in weekly research meetings and assisted in refining coding rules for other research assistants to follow.

### **Research Consultant, *ISSRC*, Frederick Boehmke** Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Worked as part of a team of graduate student research consultants managed by the Iowa Social Science Research Center that advised and assisted members of the University of Iowa's research community in conducting original research. I provided consulting services for researchers requiring assistance with data management, statistical analysis, and data visualization, including mapping. I constructed workshops, including presentations and practice datasets, to teach individuals the fundamentals of Stata as well as how to visualize data using Stata.

### **Editorial Assistant, *American Political Science Review*, Kelly Kadera** Fall 2022-Summer 2023

Worked as the assistant to one of the Associate Editors, Kelly Kadera. I assisted in reviewer selection and managing the reviewer database for the journal.

### **Editorial Assistant, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Brian Lai** Spring 2021-Summer 2022

Worked under one of the lead editors, Brian Lai, to facilitate the publication of manuscripts post-review. I replicated the data analysis of empirical manuscripts accepted for publication in the journal, communicated with authors and editors, assisted in maintaining the journal database of reviewers and submissions, and prepared manuscripts for publication by ensuring document quality. I replicated the results of empirical manuscripts by accessing provided data files, troubleshooting provided code in both Stata and R, and communicating with authors if any issues occurred.

### **Research Assistant, *Issue Correlates of War*, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell** Summer 2021

Assisted in collecting news sources for expanding the ICOW maritime dataset to include Asia maritime dispute cases. I compiled news article, extracted key information, and compiled the key information into data sheets for coding individual maritime disputes into the existing ICOW maritime claim dataset.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

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International Relations, Interstate Conflict, Foreign Policy, Conflict Management and Resolution, Maritime International Relations, Comparative Politics, Contentious Politics, Natural Resource Politics, Natural Resources and Conflict, Political Science Research Design

## TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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### **Independent Instructor**, University of Iowa

International Conflict Fall 2025

### **Workshop Instructor**, Iowa Social Science Research Center

Introduction to Stata Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Introduction to Data Visualization using Stata Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Iowa

Introduction to Foreign Policy Fall 2020

Introduction to International Relations Spring 2021

Introduction to Foreign Policy (online), *Head TA* Fall 2021-Fall 2022

### **Guest Lecturer**, University of Iowa

International Conflict Fall 2022

Guest lectured on the Outcomes and Consequences of War; prepared a lesson and questions regarding how interstate wars end and the impacts they have both domestically and internationally; illustrated concepts by using the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War; led guided discussion.

### **Mentorship**, University of Iowa Department of Political Science

Peer Mentor for Incoming Graduate Students 2021- Present

Provided support and assistance for one first-year PhD student and two master's students on how to adjust to graduate school, how to succeed in graduate courses, and how to navigate and understand the field of political science; one student successfully applied and gained admission to a top political science PhD program.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentor Spring, Fall 2023

Mentored two Undergraduate Research Assistants. Collaborated to collect longitude and latitude data on maritime disputes and taught them the basics of the research and data collection process.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Distinct Impacts of Offshore Oil and Offshore Natural Gas on Maritime Conflict”

American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. Fall 2024.

“From Land to Sea: The Domestic Origins of Maritime Conflict over Fossil-Fuel Resources”

International Studies Association. San Francisco, CA. Spring 2024.

“Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict” with Sara McLaughlin Mitchell

International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2023.

“Maritime Zones of Contention: The Impact of Maritime Border-Proximate Offshore Oil Resources on Diplomatic Conflict”

European Political Science Association. Glasgow, Scotland. June 2023.

“Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity”

International Studies Association. Montréal, Québec, Canada. Spring 2023.

“Fishing for Oil: The Effect of Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Reserves on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict”

International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2022.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

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<b>Reviewer</b> , International Interactions	2024 - Present
<b>At-large Board Member</b> , International Studies Association-Midwest	2022 - 2024
<b>Vice-President</b> , Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa	2021 - 2023
<b>Student Union Rep.</b> , Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa	2020 - 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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**International Studies Association**  
**Bridging the Gap**  
**American Political Science Association**

## ANALYTICAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Software: Stata, R, Tableau, QGIS, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, SPSS, Qualtrics, and Python (basic)

## REFERENCES

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Sara McLaughlin Mitchell  
Professor and Collegiate Fellow  
University of Iowa  
[Sara-Mitchell@uiowa.edu](mailto:Sara-Mitchell@uiowa.edu)

Brian Lai  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
[Brian-Lai@uiowa.edu](mailto:Brian-Lai@uiowa.edu)

Elizabeth Menninga  
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